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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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In re Application of	:	
Patrick Hallinan et al.	:	DECISION REFUSING STATUS
Application No. 10/813,078	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.47(a)
Filed: March 31, 2004	:	
Attorney Docket No. 066949-0001	:	

This is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a), filed August 5, 2004.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Rule 47 applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this decision to reply, correcting the below-noted deficiencies. Any reply should be entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," and should only address the deficiencies noted below, except that the reply may include an oath or declaration executed by the non-signing inventor. **FAILURE TO RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT OF THE APPLICATION.** Any extensions of time will be governed by 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) requires: (1) proof that the non-signing inventor cannot be reached or refuses to sign the oath or declaration after having been presented with the application papers (specification, claims and drawings); (2) an acceptable oath or declaration in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 115 and 116; (3) the petition fee; and (4) a statement of the last known address of the non-signing inventor. Applicant lacks item (1) set forth above.

As to item (1), the applicable statute (35 U.S.C. § 116) requires that a "diligent effort" have been expended in attempting to find or reach the non-signing inventor. *See* MPEP 409.03(a). The showing currently fails to demonstrate, with a documented showing, that a diligent effort was made to find or locate non-signing inventor James Schreck, such that the declaration can be accepted under 37 CFR 1.47(a). Where inability to find or locate a named inventor(s) is alleged, a statement of facts should be submitted that fully describes the exact facts which are relied on to establish that a *diligent effort* was made to locate the inventor.

Petitioner has not demonstrated that all efforts were expended in trying to locate non-signing inventor Schreck. In this regard, petitioner should, at the very least, conduct a search of the regional or national registry(s). The results of such search should be made in any future petition for reconsideration. *See* MPEP 409.03(d). Additionally, petitioner should state whether he has access to inventor Schreck 's personnel records and, if so, what does inspection of the records reveal as to a current address, forwarding address, or an address of the nearest living relative? What does inspection of the phone directories for those address locations reveal? If a forwarding address is provided, petitioner should then mail a complete copy of the application papers (specification, claims, drawings, oath, etc.) to Schreck 's address, return receipt requested, along with a cover letter of instructions which includes a deadline or a statement that no response will constitute a refusal. This sort of ultimatum lends support to a finding of refusal by conduct. If the papers are returned and all other attempts to locate or reach the inventor, e.g., through personnel records, co-workers, E-mail, the Internet or the telephone, etc., continue to fail, then applicant will have established that the inventor cannot be reached after diligent effort or has refused to join in the application. **The statements of facts must be signed, where at all possible, by a person having firsthand knowledge of the facts recited therein and should be accompanied by documentary evidence in support of the statement of facts.** It is important that the forthcoming communication contain statements of fact as opposed to conclusions.

Where there is an express or oral refusal, that fact, along with the time and place of the refusal, must be stated in an affidavit or declaration by the party to whom the refusal was made. Where there is a written refusal, a copy of the document(s) evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the rule 47 applicant that an omitted inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in an affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence must be submitted.

Whenever an omitted inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: **Mail Stop PETITIONS**
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Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Carl Friedman at (571) 272-6842.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Carl Friedman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carl Friedman
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions